

by a contract physician from a list of physicians approved by the INS for the examination of INA 245 adjustment of status applicants.

(c) *Panel physician facility requirements.* A consular officer may not include the name of a physician on the panel of physicians referred to in paragraph (b) of this section unless the physician has facilities to perform required serological and X-ray tests or is in a position to refer applicants to a qualified laboratory for such tests.

### Subpart K—Issuance of Nonimmigrant Visa

#### § 41.111 Authority to issue visa.

(a) *Issuance outside the United States.* Any consular officer is authorized to issue regular and official visas. Diplomatic visas may be issued only by:

(1) A consular officer attached to a U.S. diplomatic mission, if authorized to do so by the Chief of Mission; or

(2) A consular officer assigned to a consular office under the jurisdiction of a diplomatic mission, if so authorized by the Department or the Chief, Deputy Chief, or Counselor for Consular Affairs of that mission, or, if assigned to a consular post not under the jurisdiction of a diplomatic mission, by the principal officer of that post.

(b) *Issuance in the United States in certain cases.* The Director of the Visa Office of the Department and such other officers of the Department as the former may designate are authorized, in their discretion, to issue nonimmigrant visas, including diplomatic visas, to:

(1) Qualified aliens who are currently maintaining status and are properly classifiable in the A, C-2, C-3, G or NATO category and intend to reenter the United States in that status after a temporary absence abroad and who also present evidence that:

(i) They have been lawfully admitted in that status or have, after admission, had their classification changed to that status; and

(ii) Their period of authorized stay in the United States in that status has not expired; and

(2) Other qualified aliens who are currently maintaining status in an E, H, I, or L nonimmigrant category and in-

tend to reenter the United States in that status after a temporary absence abroad and who also present evidence that;

(i) They were previously issued visas at a consular office abroad and admitted to the United States in the status which they are currently maintaining; and

(ii) Their period of authorized admission in that status has not expired.

#### § 41.112 Validity of visa.

(a) *Significance of period of validity of visa.* The period of validity of a nonimmigrant visa is the period during which the alien may use it in making application for admission. The period of visa validity has no relation to the period of time the immigration authorities at a port of entry may authorize the alien to stay in the United States.

(b) *Validity of visa and number of applications for admission.* (1) Except as provided in paragraph (c) of this section, a nonimmigrant visa shall have the validity prescribed in schedules provided to consular officers by the Department, reflecting insofar as practicable the reciprocal treatment accorded U.S. nationals by the government of the country of which the alien is a national or stateless resident.

(2) Nonimmigrant visas issued pursuant to INA 101(a)(15)(B) may be made valid indefinitely and for unlimited applications for admission for aliens who:

(i) Are nationals of countries that offer reciprocal treatment to U.S. citizens, as determined by the Department;

(ii) Are in possession of a valid passport; and

(iii) Are bona fide visitors and will continue to seek to enter the United States only for such purpose for an indefinite period of time, in the judgment of the consular officer.

(3) An indefinite validity visa is valid for application for admission even if the passport in which the visa is stamped has expired, provided the alien is also in possession of a valid passport issued by the authorities of the country of which the alien is a national.

(c) *Limitation on validity.* If warranted in an individual case, a consular officer may issue a nonimmigrant visa for:

(1) A period of validity that is less than that prescribed on a basis of reciprocity,

(2) A number of applications for admission within the period of the validity of the visa that is less than that prescribed on a basis of reciprocity,

(3) Application for admission at a specified port or at specified ports of entry, or

(4) Use on and after a given date subsequent to the date of issuance.

(d) *Automatic extension of validity at ports of entry.* (1) Provided that the requirements set out in paragraph (d)(2) of this section are fully met, the following provisions apply to nonimmigrant aliens seeking readmission at ports of entry:

(i) The validity of an expired nonimmigrant visa issued under INA 101(a)(15) may be considered to be automatically extended to the date of application for readmission, and

(ii) In cases where the original nonimmigrant classification of an alien has been changed by INS to another nonimmigrant classification, the validity of an expired or unexpired nonimmigrant visa may be considered to be automatically extended to the date of application for readmission, and the visa may be converted as necessary to that changed classification.

(2) The provisions in paragraph (d)(1) of this section are applicable only in the case of a nonimmigrant alien who:

(i) Is in possession of a Form I-94, Arrival-Departure Record, endorsed by INS to show an unexpired period of initial admission or extension of stay, or, in the case of a qualified F or J student or exchange visitor or the accompanying spouse or child of such an alien, is in possession of a current Form I-20, Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status, or Form IAP-66, Certificate of Eligibility for Exchange Visitor Status, issued by the school the student has been authorized to attend by INS, or by the sponsor of the exchange program in which the alien has been authorized to participate by INS, and endorsed by the issuing school official or program sponsor to indicate the period of initial admission or extension of stay authorized by INS;

(ii) Is applying for readmission after an absence not exceeding 30 days solely in contiguous territory, or, in the case of a student or exchange visitor or accompanying spouse or child meeting the stipulations of paragraph (d)(2)(i) of this section, after an absence not exceeding 30 days in contiguous territory or adjacent islands other than Cuba;

(iii) Has maintained and intends to resume nonimmigrant status;

(iv) Is applying for readmission within the authorized period of initial admission or extension of stay;

(v) Is in possession of a valid passport; and

(vi) Does not require authorization for admission under INA 212(d)(3).

(3) The provisions in paragraphs (d)(1) and (d)(2) of this section shall not apply to nationals of Iraq.

[52 FR 42597, Nov. 5, 1987; 53 FR 9112, 9172, Mar. 21, 1988, as amended at 55 FR 36028, Oct. 31, 1990]

#### § 41.113 Procedures in issuing visas.

(a) *Visa evidenced by stamp placed in the passport.* Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this section, a nonimmigrant visa shall be evidenced by a stamp placed in the alien's passport. The appropriate symbol as prescribed in § 41.12, showing the classification of the alien shall be entered in the visa.

(b) *Cases in which visa not placed in passport.* In the following cases the visa shall be placed on the prescribed Form OF-232, Form for Nonimmigrant Visa Stamp, to which a photograph of the alien shall be attached under seal. In issuing such a visa, a notation shall be made on the Form OF-232 on which the visa is placed specifying the pertinent subparagraph of this paragraph under which the action is taken.

(1) The alien's passport was issued by a government with which the United States does not have formal diplomatic relations, unless the Department has specifically authorized the placing of the visa in such passport;

(2) The alien's passport does not provide sufficient space for the visa stamp;

(3) The passport requirement has been waived; or

(4) In other cases as authorized by the Department.